

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 26, 1973
REV. RALPH C. LINK, GUEST MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
ELDER CHESTER STAUFFER, LITURGIST
PAULA STEPHENSON, GORDON KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE: "LARGETTO QUASI ANDANTINO" RAFF
SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 43 "WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (UNISON) "MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE HAVE DONE
LITTLE TO FORWARD THY KINGDOM IN THIS WORLD, TO ESTABLISH
THE BROTHERHOOD OF MEN, AND LOVE AS THE LAW OF LIFE. WE
HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WHATSOEVER IS DONE TO ONE OF THE LEAST
OF THY BRETHREN IS DONE UNTO THEE. PARDON OUR SHORTCOMINGS;
FORGIVE OUR PAST NEGLECT. GIVE US A SIMPLE AND A SINGLE HEART
INTENT ON PLEASING THEE. HELP US IN ALL OUR SEEKING TO SEEK
FIRST THY KINGDOM AND THY RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT WE MAY BE
BLESSED WITH THE FULL MEASURE OF THY BLESSING. AND MAKE US
TO COME, AS CAME THY SON JESUS CHRIST, NOT TO BE MINISTERED
UNTO, BUT TO MINISTER. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*LAY READER: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOB 32: 6-22

HYMN No. 226 "DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MAN-KIND"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "ONCE MORE, WITH FEELING"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

FLUTE DUET: "IN THE UPPER GARDEN" - C. AUSTIN MILES

BY ROLAND THOMPSON AND MRS. EUGENE STEPHENSON

CALL TO PRAYER

*LAY READER: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*LAY READER: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "ANDANTE"

STEELE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 253 "TAKE MY LIFE"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO"

DUBOIS

*CONGREGATION STANDING -----
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MR. & MRS. GUY ARMSTRONG IN HONOR OF THEIR 31ST
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. - CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ARMSTRONGS.
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *GEORGE NAZARUK, WILLIAM
CAMPBELL, DAVID CURTIS AND MONT MACKINNEY.
MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE
DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. JOHN REDMAN.

WE WISH TO THANK REV. RALPH C. LINK FOR BRINGING THE
MESSAGE TODAY. WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE REV. LINK AND HIS
WIFE AND FAMILY WITH US TODAY.

OUR THANKS TO ELDER CHET STAUFFER FOR SERVING AS
LITURGIST AND ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 125.

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS WILL BE BEGINNING SOON - PLEASE
LET BEA TAIT KNOW THIS WEEK, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

THE FOLLOWING ARE IN BCMH: MRS. NORABEL COOPER, ROBERT
PETERS, JAMES POLLIARD, RAYMOND MILLER, STANLEY REGIS.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.

MONDAY - 8:00 - PASTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING -

BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAYS NEXT WEEK - THIS MEETING WILL
TAKE THE PLACE OF THE ONE ON SEPT. 3.

THE LIBRARY BOARD HAS MOVED THE LIBRARY BOOKS DOWN TO
THE ROOM NEXT TO THE ORGAN. FEEL FREE TO USE THE BOOKS,
THAT IS WHY IT WAS MOVED DOWN ON THIS FLOOR - SO THEY
WOULD BE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO YOU.

OUR CHURCH HAS THE WHEEL CHAIR PROJECT FOR OCTOBER

1973. WE WILL HAVE FOUR (4) SUNDAYS OCT. 7, 14, 21,

AND THE 28TH. PLEASE COME FORWARD IF YOU CAN HELP
WITH THIS WORTH-WHILE PROJECT - CONTACT WILLIAM PFLUGH,

OR BEA TAIT IN THE OFFICE OR HOME. WE NEED YOU.
NEXT SUNDAY - SEPT. 2 - WE REVERT BACK TO FALL SCHEDULE.

CHURCH SCHOOL 9:45; MORNING WORSHIP AT 11:00

Call to Worship: God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Call to Confession: The spirit and the bride say "Come." And let him who hears say, "Come." And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price. Jesus invites us to come and seek forgiveness at all times. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

VBS, Duncannon, New Bloomfield, 9:00 - 11:30 daily.

Groundbreaking today, Perry Village.

All 3 graduates are honor students from Trinity.

Jim Gelbach, Dan Sausman delegates from respect. churches.

Rev. Horace Sills elected pres. will be here Aug 26

ORGAN FUND 291.00

PERPETUAL MEETING WED.

CHILDREN'S DAY SERVICE WED 7:00

"Another Year, Another Candle!"

Text: Job 32:8, 19, 20,

"But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. Behold, my heart is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins, it is ready to burst. I must speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer."

In the second chapter of Acts we read the magnificent story of Pentecost.

(vss 1-4,) They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance. Here we see the for the first time, the public display of men who were literally on fire for God. They were visited by the Holy Spirit, and it came to them we are told as tongues of fire resting on each one of them, and they began to preach as they had never preached before.

(vss 5-12), All of the people assembled were able to hear these preachers in their own language for the first time. Here were uneducated men mostly who could now speak foreign languages. Naturally this caused a great stir among the ~~xxx~~ crowd and they began to question, "What does this mean?" They couldn't understand it, and probably if the Apostles had been asked to explain it, they could not have done so either. There is and was ~~xxx~~ no easy answer to the miracle that God was performing.

(vss 13), As usual someone had to add the sour grapes to this happy and wonderful occasion. The human thing to do is to find a logical explanation and then explain away something that defies description.

For those of you who have access to the June 4th issue of Newsweek magazine, you will find in there on page 73 an article about Jesus Christ, showing him to be merely an excellent magician. It does away with the raising of Lazarus from the dead. It implies that Jesus used some sort of secret and possibly sexual baptismal ceremony for initiation into the Kingdom of God, for a few select disciples. The disciples did not see him risen from the dead, but merely had such an emotional dependence upon him, they had hallucinations that he was alive.

Here we have a good example of the current trend in religion, and unfortunately in many churches. Many seminaries, ^{COLLEGES & EVEN CHURCHES} are trying desperately to explain away the Virgin birth of Jesus, His miracles, and anything that cannot be properly explained. One easy way to explain something unusual that happens is to say that the person who relates it is drunk. After all when a person is drunk, he cannot be held accountable for his actions.

(Illustration of Dr. Halford Luccock and D.D.)

Isn't this the case today? Following the Baccalaureate service at West Perry last Sunday evening, as I was taking off my robe, and preparing to leave the school, Mrs. Smith the music teacher and director of the chorus came up to me and said; "I just wanted to say Amen, all through your sermon, and I ^{FINALLY} did at the very end when you finished." I told her, "I wish you would have said it several times," and I meant it.

The Spirit of God at work is something that is alive and vital. It is animated and moving. It cannot be contained and shut up in a vacuum. Look at the prophets of Israel: Elijah stripped down to his loin cloth, running ahead of the chariot of King Ahab; ~~Hosea~~ Hosea, marrying a prostitute to show the people God's mercy toward them. Isaiah walking for 3 days stark naked through the streets of Jerusalem to show the people how God would strip the city in the days ahead. Christ accused of stirring up the people.

Always we see action and movement involved. When people were confronted by Christ or the preaching of the Gospel, they cried out, they wept aloud. They shouted for joy. They sang praises from the very depths of their beings. They lifted their voices in loud praise and in singing. They ran. They leaped. They danced. They fell on their faces in the dust. In other words they showed their emotions. ^{THEY WERE ENTHUSIASTIC.}
(Illustration of man and his dog act, "dogs not playing dead anymore)

Isn't he perhaps right. At the different concerts at the schools recently I looked around at the people when a number was finished and mostly all I saw was a little bit of polite applause, and no enthusiasm.

(Illustration of tombstone in New England, "No enthusiasm")

Is this what has happened to Christianity? Where is the enthusiasm? Where is the "God within" spirit? Did this disappear with the early church?

(Illustration of slave woman and getting religion)

No one is really supposed to get religion as they did at Pentecost. If we see it happen to someone today, we say that he ~~is~~ cannot possibly be sincere. The early Christians were called drunk. One minister tells of a woman in his congregation who stays away from church because the pastor in the pulpit gets too excited about things. He said she likes to go to church to be soothed and rested and comforted and told lovely little stories that do not cause her to squirm or to take fresh stock of her Christianity weekly.

But this woman is not alone in her convictions. We tend to pull away from fervor. We tend to be suspicious about anyone who has enthusiasm in his faith. Enthusiasm in Christianity has a strange way of disturbing the status quo all along the line. Let a man be on fire with his faith and strange things are bound to happen. Martin Luther knew the wonder of this being on fire for the Lord. He once said, "I say one thing boldly and freely that nobody is nearer God than those who hate and deny Him, and He has no more dear children than these." What he meant was that unless Christ matters most to you, He doesn't matter at all.

Faith is not just one more interest in life, side by side with other involvements. Its not just another civic club, or
YOUNG MINISTER, HEAL DEAD, CAST OUT SICK, RAISE DEVILS.
MAY BE WRONG BUT ENTHUSIASTIC.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)







Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.